

Appl. No. 10/046,240

REMARKS

Applicants' representative is grateful to Examiner Politzer, who telephoned him on July 15, 2003 and offered him the opportunity to suggest a modification of the requirement for restriction and to present claim amendments consonant with the requirement for restriction as modified.

The Examiner had required election in the present application between: Group I, claims 1-3; Group II, claims 4-6; Group III, claims 7-13; Group IV, claims 14 and 15; Group V, claims 16-21; Group VI, claims 22 and 23; Group VII, claim 24; Group VIII, claim 25; Group IX, claim 26; Group X, claims 27 and 28; Group XI, claim 29; and Group XII, claim 30.

Applicants had elected the invention of Group V for prosecution on the merits. Applicants had traversed this requirement for restriction on the grounds that it involved too many Groups. Claim 7 is drawn to a method that requires subjecting a mixture of a gas and a liquid to three different equilibrium pressures. Claims 16, 17, and 22 implement the method of claim 7 in the context of industrial processes. Claims 16, 17, and 22 have now been amended to reflect their relationship to claim 7, and the pressure values P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 recited in claims 16, 17, and 22 have been clearly labeled to emphasize their relationship to the "three different equilibrium pressure states" recited in claim 7. To the extent that the Examiner is willing to combine Groups III and VI with Group V, Applicants' election in this case is without traverse.

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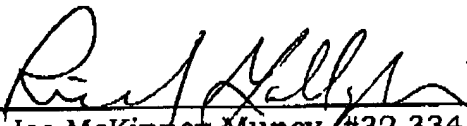
Examiner Politzer also offered Applicants the opportunity to broaden their election of species. In this connection, Applicants elect the species of invention identified by the Examiner as claims 17-21.

If there are any questions, please contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or under 37 CFR 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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0011-0382P